

THE NOAA CORPS

Scientific Service to the Nation
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

A Career in the NOAA Corps

Introduction

The NOAA Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services. It combines aspects of a military service life with the scientific mission of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This combination provides an opportunity for engineering and science graduates to do technical work in the field and also to serve their country as commissioned officers. The Corps is especially oriented toward men and women who desire travel, a variety of assignments, and meeting nature on her own terms.

NOAA Organization

The NOAA organization extends into many operational areas and services the requirements of the nation in the air, on land, and at sea through the following components;

- National Ocean Survey
- National Weather Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Environmental Satellite Service
- Environmental Research Laboratories
- Environmental Data Service
- Office of Sea Grant
- Office of Coastal Zone Management

A Uniformed Service

The NOAA Corps is not a military service, but as a uniformed service there are many parallels.

The NOAA Corps has these similarities:

- a. NOAA officers wear uniforms resembling those of the U.S. Navy. Grade structure is identical to the Navy and Coast Guard.

- b. NOAA officers receive the same basic pay and allowances as the Navy.
- c. Medical care is provided for officers and their dependents.
- d. Leave is earned at the rate of 2½ days per month.
- e. NOAA officers in travel status are governed by the Joint Travel Regulations of the Uniformed Services.
- f. Retirement eligibility accrues after 20 years' active military service.
- g. Survivor benefits accrue as in the case of the military service.
- h. NOAA officers follow an analogous career pattern: outdoor work, travel, and a rotation of assignments.
- i. NOAA officers may be transferred to the Department of Defense for duty as required in time of war or national emergency.
- j. NOAA officers are covered by the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.
- k. NOAA officers are covered by the benefits and services of the Veterans Administration.

The NOAA Corps has the following differences:

- a. NOAA officers are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice except when they are transferred to the Department of Defense.
- b. There are no enlisted or non-commissioned personnel within the NOAA Corps as in the other uniformed services.
- c. NOAA does not have military bases.

Assignments and Career Sequence

The NOAA Corps, with a currently authorized strength of 388 officers, is the smallest of the uniformed services. At any one time, almost one-half of the Corps is assigned to sea duty aboard the ships operated by NOAA. Other officers are assigned to mobile shore duty, the remainder to fixed shore duty billets. Assignments average 1½ to 3 years in length.

An officer may expect the following breakdown of duty during a typical 30-year career with the NOAA Corps:

Sea Duty	9 years
Mobile Shore Duty	4 years
Fixed Shore Duty	17 years
	<hr/> 30 years

Sea Duty

Sea duty is the common denominator for every NOAA officer and is normally the initial assignment for those newly appointed. Commissioned officers participate not only in the oceanographic or hydrographic surveying, but also in the management and navigation of the vessel.

Mobile Shore Duty

Mobile shore duty involves a great deal of travel. This duty may be from a fixed location, but generally it is on a field party working in geodesy (precise triangulation and/or leveling), photogrammetry, gravity, hydrography, or tides.

Fixed Shore Duty

Fixed shore duty may be in any component of NOAA. It may be in operational research, staff or administrative positions.

Flight Duty

Selected officers are assigned to the Flight Program, eventually leading to the Research Flight Center in Miami, Florida.

Qualifications

Candidates for appointment to the NOAA Corps (citizens of the United States) must hold a baccalaureate or higher degree in engineering, mathematics, physics, oceanography, meteorology, or other physical, geophysical, or biological science discipline from an accredited college, maritime academy, or university. Every applicant must have completed integral and differential calculus and physics through mechanics, heat, light, sound, and circuits. Physical standards are high. Uncorrected vi-

sion of 20/20 in each eye is prescribed, but waivers may be granted for visual acuity not less than 20/70 in each eye if corrected to 20/20. Color blindness is disqualifying.

Recruiting Offices

General questions on the NOAA Corps and arrangements for a personal interview should be directed to the appropriate NOAA office listed below.

NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer
NOAA Officer Training Center
Furusetth Hall N-120
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, New York 11024
516-482-8200 Ext: 360

NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer
Pacific Marine Center
National Ocean Survey, NOAA
1801 Fairview Avenue, East
Seattle, Washington 98102
206-442-7656

NOAA Corps Recruiting Officer
Environmental Research Laboratories (R58)
Boulder, Colorado 80302
303-499-6546

Recruiting Officer
Commissioned Personnel Division
NOAA (NC1)
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-443-8616

